



Monroe County celebrating MCC downtown's sustainability

by WHAM
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Rochester, N.Y. (WHAM) - Monroe County is celebrating its commitment to being sustainable.

The new MCC downtown campus earned LEED Gold certification for sustainability in building. The Gold certification is the second-highest rating that LEED can give to a building.

The campus has a green roof and a double-paned wall of windows along State Street.

The campus is projected to save \$117,000 annually through green building practices.

“The sustainable building practices Monroe County embraced in MCC’s new Downtown Campus will protect local taxpayers and our environment for years to come,” said Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo.

Eighty percent of all construction waste was diverted from landfills and fifteen percent of the materials purchased for the project were manufactured using recycled materials.

MCC Earns Gold LEED Certification for Downtown Campus

By TIANNA MANON · NOV 3, 2017



MCC's fifth floor green roof is one of its most sustainable features and contributed to its gold LEED certification.

CREDIT TIANNA MANON / WXXI NEWS

The High Falls area is being rebranded into an eco-district and Monroe Community College is quickly becoming a key player in the transition. An eco-district is an area focusing on

sustainability.

The College's State Street campus has received a gold LEED certification from the United States Green Building Council. It's the second-highest certificate the Council gives out through its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Local officials and school administration said it's an important honor considering the school's ongoing efforts to prioritize sustainability and as a key player in the High Falls area being rebranded into an eco-district.

“[It's] important to us because education is about the future,” said Dr. Anne Kress, president of MCC. “We're not simply educating students for today. We want a world

that they can go into. That they can raise their own children in and that their children's children can still be coming back to this campus.”

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DOWNTOWN CAMPUS
GREEN ROOFS HELP TO PROTECT THE GENESEE RIVER

MCC is a leader in the community in promoting sustainability. The vegetated area in front of you is a green roof and is designed to reduce stormwater pollution and protect the Genesee River.

WHAT DOES A GREEN ROOF DO?
 A green roof protects water quality by capturing and holding rain water and thereby reducing the volume of stormwater runoff to the sewer. The green roofs at MCC measure approximately ½ acre in size. During a fairly large rain storm (9 inches), the green roofs can capture more than 13,000 gallons of rain. This volume of water is comparable to a backyard pool.

MCC GREEN ROOF LOCATIONS
 GREEN ROOF LOCATION
 MCC DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

HOW IS A GREEN ROOF CONSTRUCTED?
 Green roofs are comprised of multiple layers, each of which performs an important function, though only the plant layer is visible. The plants are a mix of sedum and they absorb rain water stored in the roof. Sedum are able to survive in harsh conditions though in the winter they may appear brown.

These green roofs include a meter so that students can study their performance over time and measure the actual reduction in stormwater runoff.

LAYERS OF THE MCC GREEN ROOFS

SEDUM PLANTS

- PLANTS (SEDUM BLEND)
- PLANTING MEDIA: 4"
- FILTER FABRIC
- DRAINAGE LAYER
- ROOT BARRIER
- ROOFING MEMBRANE
- LEAK DETECTION GRID
- ROOF INSULATION
- BUILDING STRUCTURE

High Falls on the Genesee River with MCC in the distance
 PHOTO BY IM MOULINIS

Construction of MCC Green Roofs

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
 The campus is located in an area of Rochester served by combined sewers. A combined system collects both stormwater and sanitary sewage and conveys it to a wastewater treatment plant.

For ideas about how you can protect water quality at home or become involved, visit H2Ohero.org

Monroe Community College
 STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK STATE
 Environmental Facilities Corporation

Information posted all around the green roof also raises the environmental IQ of students and staff at MCC.

CREDIT TIANNA MANON

Some of the most notable features on the campus include a green roof on the fifth floor. It filters and reuses rain water. There is also a row of double-paned windows on the street level and many of the projects were constructed using recycled materials.

The entire campus construction cost about \$78 million. It was mostly funded by the county and the State University of New York. County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo said another investment of \$680,000 went into sustainability projects.

“Monroe County sustainability efforts have a dual impact,” she said. “They're as much about protecting the environment as protecting our taxpayers as well.... Because of those investments this campus is going to save \$117,000 each year in energy costs. We're going to see a full return on our investment in just seven years.”

Kress said the school's looking forward to working with the eco-district. It's MCC's fourth Gold-certified building with other facilities on its Brighton campus. Dinolfo said the certification joins other projects in the county -- and she took the time to reiterate her commitment to both the environment and taxpayers.

“It's incredibly important that we recognize the importance of sustainability,” she said. “As I said before we live in a beautiful community. Whether we're talking about our incredible parks, our natural waterways, it's our environment, our Earth, it's ours to protect and sustain for generations to come.”